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View videos, read more stories and find resources at [legion.org](https://legion.org).

The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 1.8 million members. These wartime veterans, working through more than 12,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.



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## America's true superheroes

On March 25, our nation will observe Medal of Honor Day. The day will also mark the 159th anniversary of the first presentation of the United States' highest military award for valor, to six members of Andrews' Raiders for

their daring mission to steal a train in an attempt to destroy railroad track and bridges between Chattanooga and Atlanta.

The stories behind the 3,530 medals awarded from the Civil War through the global war on terrorism are inspiring and extraordinary. One of the more unique citations belongs to Telesforo de la Cruz Trinidad, who was born in the Philippines and enlisted in the U.S. Navy as part of the Insular Force in 1910. Before serving in World Wars I and II, Trinidad received the Medal of Honor for his actions while serving as a fireman second class aboard USS *San Diego* on Jan. 21, 1915. Driven out of fireroom No. 2 when a boiler exploded, he went back to rescue an injured sailor. With no thought for his own safety, and his face severely burned, he entered another exploding fireroom to assist a second injured crewman.

Trinidad's story confirms what most veterans already know: military service is inherently dangerous, even outside combat. Last fall, the Legion's National Executive Committee passed a resolution calling on the secretary of the Navy to name the next guided missile destroyer for the first and only Asian-American (and first Filipino) in the Navy to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

My hometown of Gainesville, Texas, is the nation's only Medal of Honor Host City. Since 2001, we have welcomed 56 living Medal of Honor recipients. Entering the city, you'll see a gorgeous monument atop which a bronze eagle clasps the blue ribbon of a Medal of Honor, symbolizing the strength and sacrifice demonstrated by all who have received the award – among them Telesforo de la Cruz Trinidad. They are reluctant to be called heroes, but few other words come close to describing their deeds, character and example to us.

Comic-book fans can debate the merits of the Marvel and DC universes. Me? I'll stick with the accounts of America's real-life superheroes, found online at the Congressional Medal of Honor Society's site, [cmohs.org](http://cmohs.org).

*Paul E. Dillard*

# THE AMERICAN Legion MAGAZINE

Veterans Strengthening America

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## Lucky Indeed

What a heartbreaking story by Ken Olsen about the Afghan interpreter (January). I'm sure many more like him are still trying to get out. Our cut-and-run withdrawal is the most disgusting military operation ever. Why are our senior military officers not held accountable? How about the senior civilians in the Pentagon and State Department? Why do we keep screwing our allies?

My heart goes out to Lucky Manan, his family and all his compatriots, not to mention the Americans President Biden left stranded in Afghanistan.

*Richard Ready, Shawano, Wis.*



Photo by Schelly Stone

## Afghanistan's Grim Future

This article by Sajjan M. Gohel (January) has a picture of the Taliban patrolling with state-of-the-art U.S. weaponry and radios. Everything else (tactical sunglasses, etc.) is also American. What a tremendous disgrace this is to our veterans who brought freedom to this country.

*Adam J. White, Lafayette, Calif.*

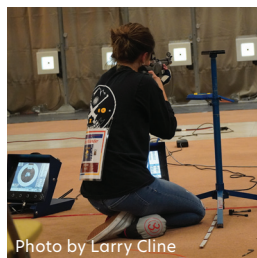


Photo by Larry Cline

**854** Competitors, representing 104 clubs, who registered for the first round of the 2021-2022 National Postal American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Tournament by the Dec. 15 deadline

## Merci Train

I read with great interest January's "Lore of the Legion." In April 2005, I found my first Merci car in Scottsdale, Ariz., and my second car that September. I also discovered

**Mercitrain.org** I started

communicating with the website owner, and upon his passing in 2013 I took it over. In 2015, my wife and I finished our quest of visiting all 43 remaining cars.

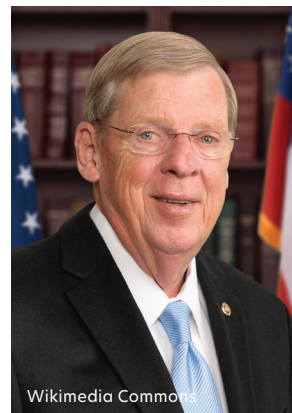
About five years ago, a couple interested in shields developed digital files of

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*The American Legion Magazine,*  
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*"Sen. Isakson was a champion for veterans. Thanks largely to his leadership in the Senate, the Department of Veterans Affairs underwent serious and meaningful reforms that will benefit veterans for generations. The MISSION Act, accountability and appeals modernization are all part of his legacy."*



Wikimedia Commons

**National Commander Paul E. Dillard**, on the death of former Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Johnny Isakson on Dec. 19. Isakson, 76, was a member of Barrett-Davis-Watson Post 233 in Loganville, Ga., and received the Legion's Distinguished Public Service Award in 2016.

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each one. The site also has a section for each state, showing the location of each car with contact information.

Feb. 3, 2024, will mark the 75th anniversary of the French steamer *Magellan's* arrival in New York Harbor with 49 boxcars packed with gifts from the people of France. If you are thinking of fixing up your car for the anniversary, take a look at the online Restoration Guide by a caretaker group. If your post is caretaker for a car, let me know if we need to make any updates.

*John Stevens, Tyrone, Ga.*

### Here to Stay

Thank you for this article (Commander's Message, January). When the government decided on an all-volunteer military instead of universal conscription, it foreshadowed the decline of the influence of the veteran. When every man once wore the uniform of his country, he becomes a major influence in the treatment of veterans and the decisions of government to enter military conflict.

*George J. Silos, Bronx, N.Y.*

**103** Age The American Legion will turn on March 15. Download a suggested speech for post use at [legion.org/publications](https://legion.org/publications).

### Legacy application due April 1

Applications for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship are due April 1. The scholarship provides college funding to children of post-9/11 veterans who died on active duty, or who have a combined VA disability rating of 50% or greater.

[legion.org/scholarships/legacy](https://legion.org/scholarships/legacy)

## THE PLAYLIST

*American Legion videos you don't want to miss.*



Photo by Holly K. Soria

### Shout-outs from SVA conference

The Tango Alpha Lima podcast crew interviews speakers and others at the Student Veterans of America NatCon 2022 in Orlando, Fla., including many Legionnaire students who shout out to their local posts back home.

### 'When They Came Home'

Racing legend Jimmie Johnson says The American Legion has always worked to solve the most complex issues facing veterans, and suicide prevention stands today as one of the most serious in history.

### Service officers make a difference

Colorado Navy veteran tells how his American Legion service officer helped after the COVID-19 pandemic took his job.

Visit [legion.org/magazine/videos](https://legion.org/magazine/videos) or subscribe to The American Legion's YouTube channel to see, show and share other American Legion videos.

**25k+** Viewers who tuned in for a Dec. 4 online video game tournament put on by The American Legion and Regiment Gaming, in which 24 professional players were matched with 48 veterans and servicemembers as teammates. The Veterans Bash Tournament was streamed from 25 Twitch accounts.

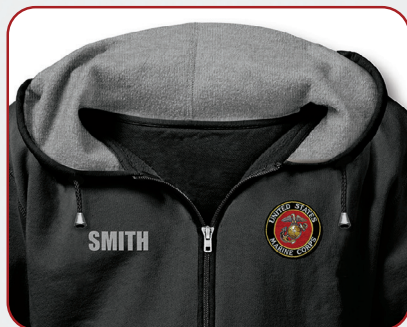


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You'll notice plenty of design detail throughout this apparel exclusive, like a flag patch on the left sleeve (an Army logo patch on the Army hoodie),

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## Whereas ...

**By 2028**, the number of Veterans Health Administration enrolled veterans aged 75 and older is projected to increase by 46% ...

**In 1999**, the Supreme Court ruled that unjustified institutionalization and segregation of people with disabilities violates the Americans with Disabilities Act ...

**People with disabilities** have a right to live in the most integrated setting possible ...

**By 2016**, Medicaid's long-term services and supports spending had rebalanced and allocated more toward noninstitutionalized versus institutionalized programs at a 56% to 44% ratio, while VA obtained a 30% to 70% rebalancing ratio ...

**90% of veterans** have expressed wishes to age in place ...

**Despite high satisfaction ratings**, VA's Medical Foster Home program had only served 1,000 veterans ...

## Be it resolved ...

The American Legion urges the Department of Veterans Affairs to expedite its efforts to rebalance the ratio of funding, resources, and commitments back into VA's noninstitutionalized Home and Community-Based Services ...

The American Legion strongly supports veterans' choice on where to age in place, so long as the long-term services and supports are provided by an approved and accredited agency ...

That VA defrays or offsets the financial burdens placed when a veteran, of any age, chooses to remain in home and community-based care versus institutionalized care.

**Passed**, American Legion National Executive Committee Fall Meeting, Oct. 6-7, 2021

## VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

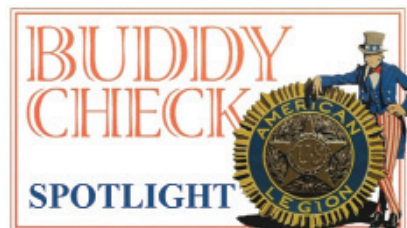
### Snapshot of a post's health

I read about the Buddy Check program in *The American Legion Magazine* and said to myself, "Our post should do that." I brought up the idea at one of our meetings and it was unanimously approved. Then I said, "Great! What do I do now?"

The downloadable Buddy Check Toolkit at [legion.org/buddycheck](https://legion.org/buddycheck) provided me with a clear approach. I asked our adjutant for a list of members and made a database of phone numbers. Then I put together a team of eager volunteers and, using the Buddy Check script, we called our members.

Many were ecstatic to hear from us. Most were glad we made an effort to call them. Not only did we get an idea of the health and needs of our membership, we were also able to clear up discrepancies in our membership roster. We also got quite a few renewals, and members saying they would try to stop by the post more often.

*Submitted by Ron Rising, post service officer, Memorial American Legion Post 141, West Palm Beach, Fla.*



Share your Buddy Check success stories:  
[legiontown.org](https://legiontown.org), under the Buddy Check category



Photo by Todd Maisel

# \$621,660

Amount in American Legion Mission Blue grants disbursed in 2021 to assist local posts whose operations were adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In December alone, 97 grants were issued to posts in 27 departments, in the amount of \$135,000.

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## Special podcast series focuses on solutions to veteran suicide

The American Legion Tango Alpha Lima podcast has kicked off its third season with a special four-part series identifying solutions for, and raising awareness about, veteran suicide. Highlights include:

**Part 1** - The Idaho American Legion runs One More Day, a suicide intervention program that uses a peer-to-peer model. Department adjutant and program director Abe Abrahamson believes the approach can be adapted elsewhere. "For those in rural communities, this may be another way for them to aid their fellow veterans," he says.

**Part 2** - Air Force veteran Jeffrey Freeman credits The American Legion with saving his life. He joined about a month after a suicide attempt. "It was a perfect fit for me," says Freeman, a member of Post 190 in Ripon, Calif., and adjutant of District 11. "It's given me a purpose, a meaning."

**Part 3** - Sean Powers, a member of 9-11 Memorial Post 2001 in New York, discusses the NYPD's POPPA (Police Organization Providing Peer Assistance) program. While POPPA is geared toward officers, the approach can be adapted to assist struggling veterans. Powers has used his POPPA training to assist veterans of the global war on terrorism, Vietnam and even World War II.

**Part 4** - Virginia Cruse, an Army Reserve officer and combat veteran, found herself on the brink during a deployment, leading her to become a licensed counselor. A member of Post 145 in Bristol, Tenn., Cruse now provides crisis intervention and evidence-based treatment for veterans suffering from PTSD, moral injury and other diagnoses. "When you can see yourself the way others see you, the way loved ones see you, your whole world changes," she says.

Note that these episodes may be triggering. For veterans in crisis, VA has help available 24/7. Call **1-800-273-8255** and press 1, or text **838255**. An online chat is available at [veteranscrisisline.net](https://veteranscrisisline.net).

Visit [legion.org/tangoalphalima](https://legion.org/tangoalphalima) to listen to or view the entire series as well as more than 100 other episodes.



Photo by Ben Mikesell

*"Chip is a winner. The American Legion wants to win. We have all the means and equipment to do it. It's going to be up to us to do it."*

**NTT INDYCAR Series driver Tony Kanaan**, following Chip Ganassi Racing's announcement that Kanaan will be back in an American Legion-sponsored Honda in the 106th Indianapolis 500 on May 29. In 2021, he qualified fifth and finished 10th in the Legion's No. 48. Kanaan won the race in 2013.

Keep up with Kanaan and Jimmie Johnson throughout the 2022 season: [legion.org/48](https://legion.org/48)



Photo courtesy Bob Schleiden

## Hometown hero

**Harry VanRiper**, chaplain of **Richland American Legion Post 548 in Bakerstown, Pa.**, was recognized at an Oct. 17 Pittsburgh Steelers football game during the "U.S. Steel Salute Our Heroes" pre-game tribute to veterans. VanRiper is a Vietnam War Purple Heart combat veteran, and was selected for the Pennsylvania American Legion Chaplain of the Year Award in 2018.

March 29 is National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

**27,900**

Hours of videos watched on The American Legion's YouTube channel in 2021

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Centuries ago, Persians, Tibetans and Mayans considered turquoise a gemstone of the heavens, believing the striking blue stones were sacred pieces of sky. Today, the rarest and most valuable turquoise is found in the American Southwest— but the future of the blue beauty is unclear.

On a recent trip to Tucson, we spoke with fourth generation turquoise traders who explained that less than five percent of turquoise mined worldwide can be set into jewelry and only about twenty mines in the Southwest supply gem-quality turquoise. Once a thriving industry, many Southwest mines have run dry and are now closed.

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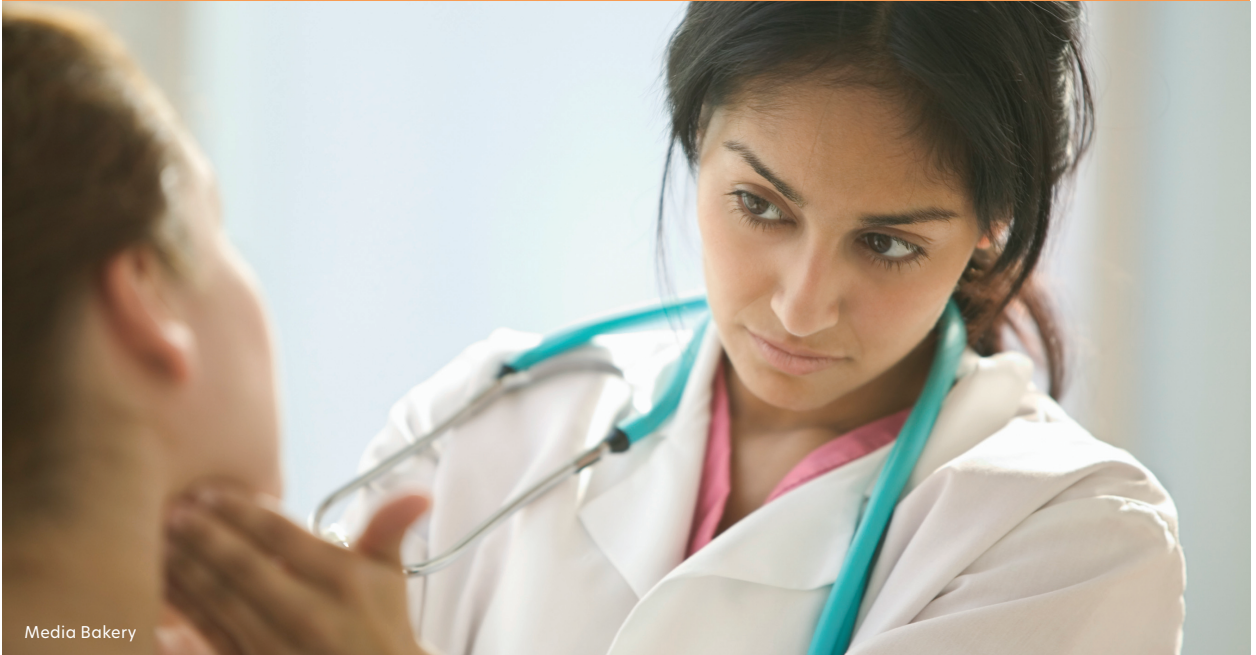
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## Let's talk about women's health

This year's Women's History Month theme is "Providing Healing, Promoting Hope." In that spirit, the month of March is also a great time to remind women to focus on their health.

Fitness and nutrition don't just play a role in weight management. They are critical in preventing disease and injury. Many of the top 10 health concerns that affect women are preventable and can be treated through a good diet and increased physical activity. They include:

**Diabetes and obesity** Type 2 diabetes is an epidemic affecting nearly 26 million Americans, roughly half of them women. Those with type 2 diabetes are often obese. The combination of these conditions increases your risk of heart disease, stroke and kidney disease.

**Stroke** Nearly 60% of stroke deaths occur in women. For warning signs, remember the acronym FAST (Face drooping, Arm weakness or numbness, Speech problems, Time to call 911). The sooner you seek treatment, the more brain function you can save.

**Osteopenia and osteoporosis** Half of all women will experience osteoporosis, which starts long before problems are noticed. The earlier you start protecting your bones, the better. Women's bone mass peaks by 30, making the childhood and teenage years key for bone-building. Prevent osteoporosis by getting enough calcium and

vitamin D, and increasing skeletal strength with weight-bearing exercises.

**Depression** It's almost twice as likely to affect women as men. Counseling will help most people, but you can also help yourself by committing to exercise and spending time with loved ones.

Most of these health issues can be addressed with proper nutrition and regular exercise. Here are some strategies:

**Nutrition** Plan, then prepare your food at home. Restaurant dishes contain more calories, fat and sugar, while pre-packaged foods load up on refined ingredients. Consider adding a supplement to your diet to ensure you're getting all your vitamins and minerals, like calcium and vitamin D.

**Fitness** Weight-bearing and resistance training can help promote weight loss by building lean muscle mass, which increases your metabolic rate. Increasing movement and cardio activity can help strengthen the heart as well as aid in weight loss. Movement also increases endorphins, which trigger a positive feeling in the body. There is a clear link between exercise and battling depression.

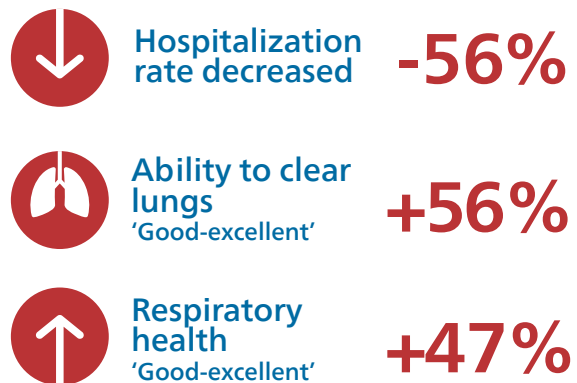
*Army veteran Jennifer Campbell is a certified personal trainer with a master's degree in nutrition education. She is commander of the California American Legion's 24th District.*



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A Philips company

\*Methodology: Phone surveys at regular intervals with VA patients using the InCourage system. Data collection began in 05/01/2019. As of 05/31/2021, 413 patients completed the baseline survey; 214 patients in 1-month cohort; 138 in 6-month cohort; 77 in 12-month cohort.

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# The power of sleep

People in their 50s and 60s who sleep six or fewer hours per night could be at higher risk of developing dementia, *The Wall Street Journal* reports, citing a new study published in the scientific journal *Nature Communications*.

For their study, researchers examined survey data for some 8,000 adults in Britain spanning 25 years. That data was based on participants' personal sleep logs and sleep-tracking devices they agreed to wear. Researchers then linked that information with dementia diagnoses from the health records system.

"Even after controlling for cardiac, metabolic and mental-health issues ... researchers found that 50-year-olds who were sleeping six hours or less a night had a 22% higher risk of developing dementia later in life," according to the *Journal*, and 60-year-olds were 37% more likely to develop the disorder as compared with people who slept seven or more hours each night.

"Even though we can't say sleep duration has a causal impact on dementia, it would be good to encourage good sleep hygiene," says Séverine Sabia, an epidemiologist at the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research and the study's lead author. She recommends that people turn off mobile devices at last a half-hour before bedtime, and develop a daytime exercise routine to help their bodies fall asleep and stay asleep for the needed number of hours.

Rebecca Robbins, a sleep scientist at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, adds that people should make sure they are exposed to natural light during daytime hours and have dinner an hour or more before bedtime, as the digestive process can interfere with sleep.



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## Go nuts for health

Rather than snacking on chips, try cashews and other nuts.

Eating just 2 ounces of nuts daily can lower levels of the harmful type of cholesterol (LDL) by up to 5%, MSN reports. In fact, a 2019 study found that those with type 2 diabetes who devoted 10% of their daily calories to cashews had a lower ratio of LDL to HDL (the good kind of cholesterol) levels than those who didn't eat any cashews.

Another study revealed that

eating peanuts and tree nuts twice a week and walnuts once a week was associated with a 13% to 19% reduced risk of any form of cardiovascular disease, and a 15% to 23% lower risk of coronary heart disease.

**10,000+**

Mental health apps

**100**

Approximate number of digital mental health startups every year

Source: MobiHealthNews

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.

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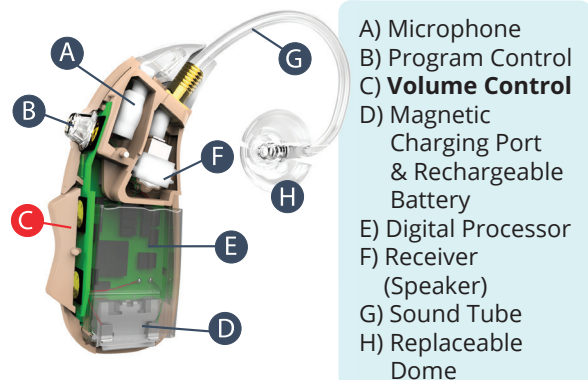
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# Tower of Meaning

BY JEFF STOFFER

**T**he apex of Louisiana State University's nearly 5,000-acre campus soars 175 feet above a memorial plaza, military parade ground and 95-year-old oak grove that pays homage to 30 LSU students and alumni who did not come home from World War I, plus one tree for the Unknown Soldier.

It is a campanile – a bell tower – whose rotunda enshrines not only those who were university-connected but all from Louisiana who lost their lives in the first world war. The American Legion of Louisiana, led by one of the organization's first campus posts, raised most of the estimated \$225,000 in construction cost during the early 1920s (about \$3.5 million in 2022

dollars) to design and build the tower, which was then deeded over as a gift to the university. Government funding for engraved bronze plaques and other features later came through American Legion influence, as wartime veterans of the organization sought to build in each U.S. state at least one permanent, major memorial to honor their fallen comrades. Posts across Louisiana also collected names of the dead for the bronze tablets and supplied museum rooms with memorabilia and artifacts from the Great War.

Since 2018, the entire site at the center of LSU's Baton Rouge campus – inside and out – has undergone a nearly \$15 million restoration, its

*Built in the 1920s through funds raised in large part by The American Legion of Louisiana, LSU's Memorial Tower has recently undergone a nearly \$15 million restoration. Photo by Education Images/Universal Images Group via Getty Images*



## ***Restoration of American Legion-funded icon revives awareness of LSU's military heritage.***

first major upgrade since Memorial Tower was originally dedicated April 30, 1926. Over the decades, water had damaged the tower's interior. Cracks had formed. Lightning had struck the ornate spire enough that it posed a threat to topple. Steps leading from the plaza to the rotunda were not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and had to be rebuilt.

"Things you couldn't see needed to be corrected," says Army veteran and American Legion Post 58 member Randy Gurie, Ph.D., executive director of Cadets of the Ole War Skule at LSU, which is housed in Memorial Tower. "This is the first noticeable, visible restoration of both the exterior and interior. It was to the point

## **LSU's Elements of Honor**

**Memorial Oak Grove** Horticulturalist Edward A. McIlhenny donated saplings, while Forestry Department faculty and American Legion Post 58 members assisted in planting the grove to honor those from LSU who died in the Great War. It was dedicated March 12, 1926, by Legionnaires, LSU Cadets, the ROTC Band and numerous spectators. In 1941, bronze plaques were installed at the bases of the trees to remember each of the fallen.

**Memorial Tower** The April 30, 1926, dedication followed three years of construction. More than 100 American Legion posts across the state filled museum wings with memorabilia. Posts also collected 1,474 names of Louisianans who died in the Great War, although Black military personnel were not included at the time and one entire parish was mistakenly left out. Four bronze plaques were installed inside the tower in 1934, and additional plaques were installed in the recent restoration to honor 231 from Point Coupee Parish and Black troops left off the original plaques.

"The names weren't there, and we needed to add them," says Randy Gurie, executive director, Cadets of the Ole War Skule.

that if we didn't make the repairs and renovations, it wasn't going to be."

Private donations and state funding have paid for the memorial's reconstruction in nearly equal measure. Individual donors and lawmakers were supportive because "first of all, it is a memorial," Gurie says. "Nobody wants to stand against honoring veterans." Beyond that, students and others had "lost sight of LSU as a military school, and that's part of what we are trying to do in the restoration of the museum."

Fully replaced is the clock face atop Memorial Tower, now illuminated, where chimes still ring every quarter-hour to keep time for some 34,000 LSU students as they roam from class to class.

The William A. Brookshire LSU Military Museum wings are fully modernized and open to the public, with such innovations as smart windows that prevent sunlight from damaging historic artifacts and displays, many of which are newly acquired and curated. The memorial plaza has also been pulled up and re-engineered. The entire area is now poised to continue its nearly century-long identity as a student gathering place, focal point for visitors and shrine to military sacrifice on one of the nation's best-known campuses.

**Historic ground** On April 7, LSU, Cadets of the Ole War Skule, and department and national American Legion officials, along with other dignitaries, will gather to rededicate Memorial Tower and its surrounding elements of honor. The ceremony had to be rescheduled three times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Featuring re-enactors portraying figures from LSU's military past, the event aims also to serve as a gateway to the future.

The museum wings have always showcased LSU's military history, which arcs back to the late 18th century when the ground that is now campus was variously occupied by the militaries of France, England, Spain and America. "The site of the university is historic ground," the 1896-1897 LSU catalog observed. "Over it hovers the romance of the struggles of the Great Powers for supremacy in the Mississippi River Valley."

Established in 1860 near Pineville, the original Louisiana State Seminary of Learning & Military Academy's first superintendent was then-Col. William Tecumseh Sherman, an 1840 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. The school closed and reopened twice during the Civil War as Sherman went away to lead Union troops after Louisiana seceded, while nearly all of his former students fought for the Confederacy.

A fire in 1869 burned down the Pineville campus buildings, and the "Ole War Skule" (source of nickname a mystery) moved to downtown Baton Rouge. "At the new location, military students marched to class, and cadet officers reported absences and cases of misconduct," Korean War veteran and Chancellor Emeritus William "Bud" Davis wrote in 1999. "All cadets were required to live in barracks."

University cadets, who would include future Commandant of the Marine Corps Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune, were trained to serve, fight and lead, filling key vacancies during the Spanish-American War and then accept offers for commissions as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army beginning in 1904. Nearly the entire LSU Cadet Corps volunteered to fight in World War I and formed a regiment known as the "Louisiana Cadets." During World War II, some 5,000 officers were LSU-connected, including 16 who rose to brigadier general or higher.

On Dec. 8, 1941, following the Pearl Harbor attack, a huge "V" for victory was erected atop Memorial Tower, lit up in red, white

**April 15, 1920** David J. Ewing American Legion Post 58 is chartered, one of the earliest campus posts in the nation.

**May 3, 1920** Post 58 leads a statewide fundraising campaign to build a war memorial on a new LSU campus.

**March 12, 1926** The Memorial Oak Grove is dedicated to honor students and alumni who died in the Great War.

**April 30, 1926** American Legion National Commander John McQuigg and Marine Corps Lt. Gen. John Lejeune preside at the Memorial Tower dedication.

**May 1932** Bronze tablets engraved with names of 1,474 Louisiana World War I dead are installed in the rotunda.

**June 15, 1934** Thomas D. Boyd American Legion Post 219 is chartered on campus, named for the late LSU president who oversaw the Memorial Tower project.

**Sept. 12, 1941** The two LSU campus posts merge into Boyd-Ewing Post 58.

**Dec. 18, 1942** Bronze plaques are planted at the bases of the trees in Memorial Oak Grove to honor the World War I heroes of LSU.

**April 26, 1976** Post 58 installs a plaque at Memorial Tower to recognize "all veterans whose honorable service has provided continuation of the inheritance of our forefathers."

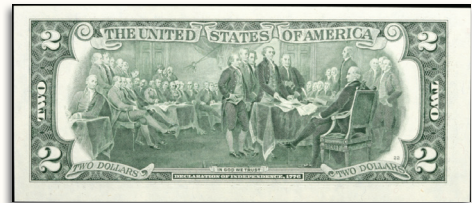
**Oct. 8, 1998** The LSU War Memorial is erected to honor all from the university who died in armed conflicts, including World War II and beyond.

**Oct. 1, 2018** Restoration begins on Memorial Tower, museum and plaza; rededication ceremonies are delayed until April 7, 2022, due to COVID.

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and blue. Following World War II, as was the case for most U.S. colleges thanks to the GI Bill, enrollment at LSU spiked by more than 5,000 students between 1945 and 1946, to nearly 10,000.

The military tradition – the “long purple line” to match West Point’s “long gray line” – continued as the wars did, with LSU developing military leaders and personnel through the Korean War, Vietnam, Desert Storm and the global war on terrorism.

“As chancellor and member of the LSU community, I particularly remember the Gulf War, which broke out on my watch,” Davis wrote. “More than 500 members of the LSU academic community participated, many going overseas. I shall never forget the photograph that appeared on the front pages of newspapers across the country: a picture of a soldier writing home with a large purple and gold LSU flag in the background. When the hostilities ended, he returned to LSU and resumed his education – just like former students in the service have done since the beginnings of this university.”

When American Legion National Commander John J. McQuigg spoke at the 1926 tower dedication ceremony, he emphasized “peace through preparedness,” author Peter A. Soderbergh wrote in his 1983 book “Tower, Tablet and Tree: LSU and The American Legion.” The dedication also symbolized a turning point for a new, larger LSU that would continue to distinguish itself through military service, just from a different location.

Among the LSU alums who came home from World War I were Maj. James P. “Perry” Cole and Lt. Col. Hermann Moyse, who became charter members of Nicholson Post 38 in Baton Rouge. Their fellow Legionnaires, combat veterans and LSU law students T. Overton Brooks and Raymond C. Parker, proposed a start-up post on campus in early 1920 “for the explicit purpose of procuring the monies needed to erect a war memorial.”

Cole would be elected commander of Post 58, named for Lt. David J. Ewing Jr., who died July 27, 1918, after a shell fragment pierced his jugular vein on the Western Front. Among the 1,128 from LSU who served during the war, Ewing was one of 30 who did not come home, three of whom fell Nov. 10, 1918, within 24 hours of the armistice, according to Soderbergh.

Cole, who had roomed with Ewing Jr. at LSU, and university president Thomas Boyd each donated \$10

## In the ‘long purple line’



**Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune**, 13th commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, served and led in the Spanish-American War, the Philippines and World War I; during World War II, namesake of Camp Lejeune

**Maj. Gen. Campbell B. Hodges**, professor and commandant of the LSU Cadets, (1910-1912); acting chief of staff for the 31st Army Division in World War I; later commandant of the Cadets at West Point, commander of the Army’s V Corps and LSU president from 1941 to 1944

**Maj. Gen. Claire N. Chennault**, leader of the Flying Tigers in World War II, later commander of the 14th Air Force

**Maj. Gen. Sanderford Jarman**, anti-aircraft artillery pioneer; reorganized defenses at the Panama Canal prior to World War II

**Gen. Graves B. Erskine**, famous for having protected the Unknown Soldier on his transatlantic journey from France in 1921; later commanded the 3rd Marine Division at Iwo Jima in World War II

**Lt. Gen. Troy H. Middleton**, distinguished combat leader in the Mexico border wars, World War I and World War II; commandant of the LSU Cadets (1930-1936); commanded the 8th Army in World War II; LSU’s president from 1951 to 1961

**Gen. Robert Barrow**, second from LSU to serve as commandant of the Marine Corps; served in China during World War II; highly decorated combat commander in the Korean and Vietnam wars

**Lt. Gen. Thomas Rhame**, career officer who was a company commander and adviser for the Army’s 1st Cavalry Division; led the “Big Red One” in Operation Desert Storm

**Gen. Charles “Hondo” Campbell**, a native of Shreveport, La., who went through ROTC at LSU, commanded U.S. Army Forces, 8th Army and 7th Infantry Division; retired with four stars in 2010



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to get the fundraising campaign going that spring. They were not sure at first what the memorial structure would be – auditorium, recreation center, gymnasium or something else – and donors were initially skeptical, concerned it would be more of an LSU memorial than a Louisiana memorial. The governor’s office got behind the project and made it clear that the memorial – whatever form it might take – would honor all Louisianans who did not come home, not only those from LSU. About nine months after news broke in 1920 that the university was moving to its new location, a bell tower was the chosen concept.

By that time, LSU’s postwar enrollment was irreversibly heading north. About 200 students had left campus to enter service during the war, which dropped enrollment to 685 in 1918 – the first decline since the 1890s – but it sprang back to more than 1,100 by the end of 1920. Space, faculty and staff had to grow quickly to keep up. That was the top priority of the time for LSU’s administration, just as the Legion’s call for a memorial on campus was getting started. Ultimately, the two interests would converge.

The 1922 American Legion Department of Louisiana convention was conducted on LSU’s campus as the Memorial Tower fundraising cause gained momentum, having banked about \$92,000 by August that year. Posts 58 and 38 conducted collaborative events and ceremonies in the intervening years, and Post 58’s Moyse was elected department commander for 1923-1924, putting him in a position to promote the project. Construction was soon under way, and in the spring of 1926, as the LSU Cadets ceremoniously marched away from the old downtown location to a new home on the south side of Louisiana’s capital city, the transition was complete.

On March 12, 1926, classes were dismissed at 2:30 p.m. so students, faculty and the Legion could participate in a ceremony to plant 31 oak trees in a grove on the new campus to remember the fallen. Less than two months later came the official dedication ceremony of Memorial Tower.

“For LSU, it was the beginning of a new era,” Soderbergh wrote. “For The American Legion, it was a milestone in its campaign to memorialize the supreme sacrifices of their comrades. At last,

the capstone was in place atop the pyramid of human aspirations. Where there was once only cotton and sugarcane, there stood now a magnificent institution, with buildings of artistic design. And at the apex, the 175-foot tower – majestic, dominant and inspiring – a permanent reminder that 1,474 Louisianans gave their lives to guarantee our futures.”

**Reawakening** Post 58 Chaplain Bob Benedict today says an important part of the restoration and rededication is that it will remind the community about the true meaning of Memorial Tower. “Few people know enough about it,” he says. “The first thing that comes to mind for me is that this is a step – finally – that will bring the memorial tower to significant attention of the community and along with that, bring the attention of the community to the veterans.”

The post that was originally chartered to make Memorial Tower a reality – which later merged with Post 219 and assumed the Boyd-Ewing namesake, adding the late university president – maintains a connection on campus, especially through its veterans center, Benedict says. Boyd-Ewing Post 58 also continues to support and recognize LSU ROTC cadets with scholarships, medals and engagement.

The restoration stands as a beacon relit in that relationship, Benedict says. “This is a reawakening of the military history of LSU. The hope is with this big grand opening ceremony – because of the emphasis – this helps people reconnect with military history they may not have known, or had forgotten about.”

It also reminds the community where Memorial Tower came from, and why. “My sense is but for the American Legion posts in Louisiana, we would not have Memorial Tower,” Gurie says. “It’s as simple as that.” 🌿

*Jeff Stoffer is editor of The American Legion Magazine.*

For more information about the rededication event or to plan a visit to Memorial Tower and its museum wings, email [cadets@lsu.edu](mailto:cadets@lsu.edu) or call **1-866-SALUTES**.

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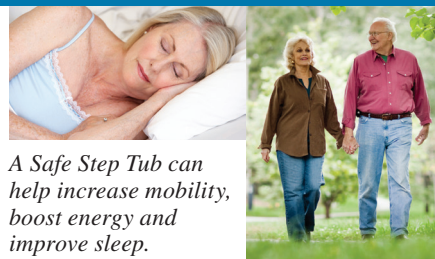
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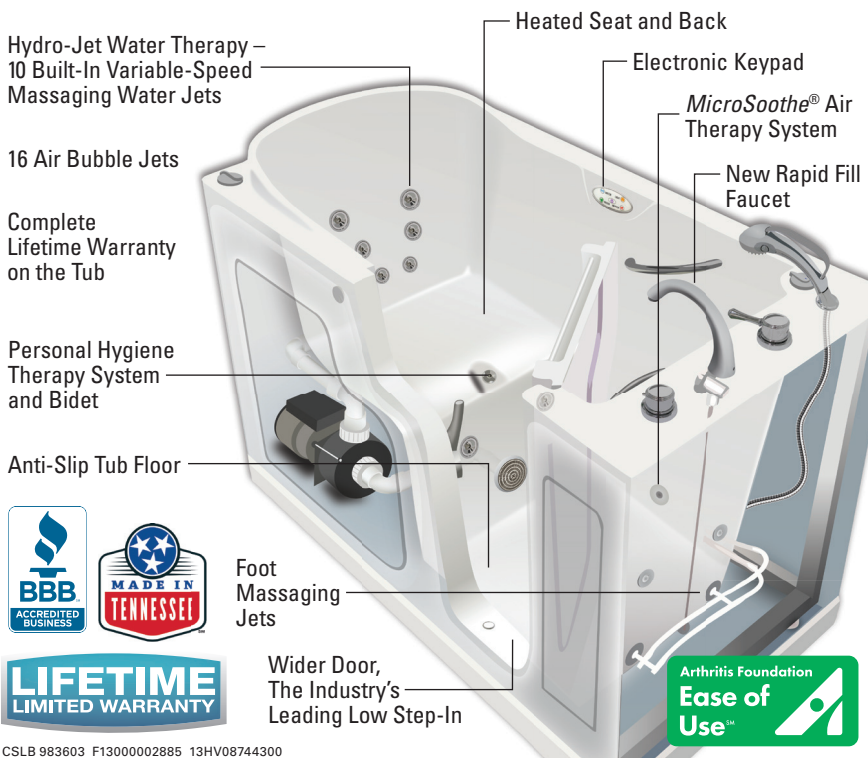
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# A New State of Mind

*Fifty doesn't have to be the final number for the United States.*

BY ALAN DOWD

It all started when 13 British colonies in North America declared their independence and founded the United States of America. The notion of adding onto that narrow strip of territory hugging the Atlantic seaboard by welcoming new states into the Union was a given for the founders. They even wrote it into the Constitution: “New states may be admitted by the Congress into this Union.”

There is no limit on the number of states, no geographic boundary, no timeframe – just a constitutional invitation to expand. There are efforts underway to accept that invitation yet again – and add more stars to Old Glory.

**GROWTH SPURTS** Before we discuss those efforts, it's important to note how common this process has been. Five states joined the original 13 during George Washington's presidency. A land surveyor by training, Washington advocated expansion. Responding to news of Kentucky's statehood plan, Washington praised “the sentiments of warm attachment to the Union ... expressed by our fellow citizens of Kentucky.”

By 1823, there were 24 states. On the eve of the Civil War, there were 34. By that time, the nation had expanded north to Maine and Wisconsin, west to Kansas and Texas, south to Louisiana and Florida. In our nation's first 183 years (after the original 13 states declared independence), Americans welcomed a new state into the Union, on average, every five years.

None of these growth spurts were accidental or unexpected. President Thomas Jefferson acquired the Louisiana Territory, from which 15 states would be formed. While serving as secretary of state, John Quincy Adams envisioned a nation “coextensive with the North American continent.” President James Polk delivered on that vision, adding the Oregon Territory and vast parts of the west to the Union. The war with Mexico would yield nine states, including California. With Oregon and California in the fold, the United States stretched from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Alaska, acquired from Russia after the Civil War, pushed U.S. territory even further west. Hawaii became a U.S. territory in the 1890s, as did Guam, the Philippines and Puerto Rico.

That brings us to current statehood efforts. There are undoubtedly political-electoral calculations in Congress for these efforts – as there have been every time states have been added to the Union – but that’s a subject for another article. The purpose here is simply to explore how and where the United States might grow.



## WASHINGTON, D.C.

Residents of Washington, D.C., have also voted on statehood, but the outcome was much clearer: 86% of D.C. voters supported a measure calling on the D.C. Council to “petition Congress to enact a statehood admission act to admit the State of New Columbia to the Union.”

In April 2021, the House passed legislation – aptly numbered H.R. 51 – providing admission into the United States “of most of the territory of the District of Columbia .... on an equal footing with the other states.” As envisioned by the bill approved by the House, this new state would encompass “all District territory, with specified exclusions for federal buildings and monuments, including the principal federal monuments, the White House, the Capitol Building, the U.S. Supreme Court Building, and the federal executive, legislative and judicial office buildings located adjacent to the Mall and the Capitol Building.”

This downsized D.C. “shall be known as the Capital and shall serve as the seat of the federal government,” according to the bill, which awaits Senate action.

Still, major impediments stand in the way of D.C. statehood. The first is underscored by the contortions and carveouts in the aforementioned legislation. To ensure that no state has control over the federal government, the Constitution makes clear that there must be a federal enclave subject to Congress for the seat of government. Whittling down what is currently known as Washington, D.C., to a few buildings and monuments, and then declaring D.C.’s remaining serpentine territory a state, would seem to create new problems.

Equally troublesome for D.C. statehood advocates is the reason why all those legal-geographic contortions and carveouts are



## PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico is at the top of the list of candidates. A 2020 referendum saw 52% of Puerto Ricans vote for statehood. That’s not exactly overwhelming support from the Puerto Rican perspective. Moreover, the island is economically bankrupt. As political analyst Michael Barone points out, some 550,000 Puerto Ricans – 14% of the population – have left for the mainland since 2010. That’s not exactly an ideal statehood candidate from the U.S. perspective.

Regardless of those impediments, it does seem that Puerto Rico’s status in that gray area between statehood and independence needs to change one way or the other. Toward that end, a bill was introduced in the House in 2020 empowering the people of Puerto Rico to organize a convention to “exercise their natural right to self-determination.” While that measure never gained traction, the statehood referendum seems to have generated some momentum. Bills are percolating in the Senate and House that would establish “a process for the admission of Puerto Rico into the Union as a state ... based on a majority vote of the people of Puerto Rico.”

“We’re gonna push for this now,” says Jenniffer González-Colón, who serves as Puerto Rico’s resident commissioner (or delegate) in Congress. “It’s a bipartisan issue.” With 3.1 million people, Puerto Rico would be a medium-sized state, sliding in between Utah and Nevada in population.

included in H.R. 51. Several constitutional scholars contend that D.C. statehood – because it would impact the text of the Constitution and could muddle the intent of the 23rd Amendment – requires a constitutional amendment. H.R. 51 tries to sidestep that by preserving some semblance of a federal enclave.

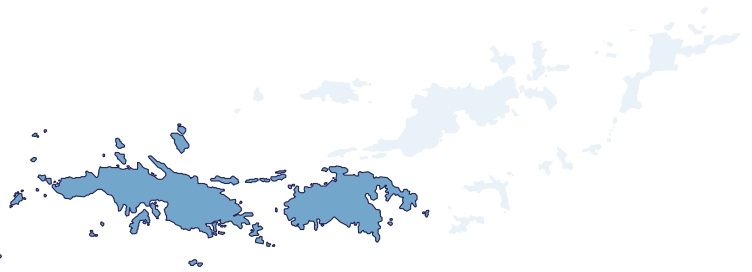
That may not be enough to satisfy legal challenges, however. Moreover, given that only 29% of the American people support D.C. statehood, passage of the enabling legislation through an evenly divided Senate – let alone passage of a constitutional amendment requiring ratification by three-fifths of states and two-thirds of Congress – seems unlikely.

Another solution for D.C. residents – who are currently represented by a non-voting delegate in the House and participate in presidential elections via the 23rd Amendment – is something known as “semi-retrocession.” Under semi-retrocession, U.S. citizens living in D.C. would vote in Maryland’s Senate elections and for one of Maryland’s federal House seats, thus giving them political representation on par with other U.S. citizens.

With 700,000 residents, D.C. would be a small state, just slightly larger than Vermont and Wyoming.

**OTHER POSSIBILITIES** Candidates for 21st-century statehood are not limited to Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. The United States could lean into this and explore adding several stars to the flag. The candidates are sprinkled across the Pacific, Caribbean and even North America.

As with the above, each faces impediments to statehood, each has its share of drawbacks and downsides, and each has to address the issue of political support for statehood within Congress and among its population.



## U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

With a population of 104,000, the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) is located about 1,200 miles southeast of Florida and 40 miles east of Puerto Rico. Like other U.S. territories, USVI is represented in Congress by a non-voting delegate. Virgin Islanders are considered deeply patriotic and supportive of America. Yet statehood seems a distant aspiration, owing to problems in developing a constitution that meets Washington’s approval. The most recent draft was returned during the Obama administration. USVI held a referendum on its political status in the 1990s, with the majority voting to remain a territory.

## GUAM & NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

With its strategic location, a major U.S. military presence and a population of military dependents, Guam may have the strongest case for statehood among America’s Pacific territories. The island, which is about 4,000 miles southwest of Hawaii and 1,500 miles south of Tokyo, has 169,000 residents and is represented by a delegate in Congress. Polls show that 56% of Guamanians support statehood, with only 10% supporting independence.

As with Hawaii and Alaska in the 1950s, there’s a solid national-security rationale for Guam joining the Union: as a state it could serve as a potent political deterrent to Chinese aggression. As Eyck Freymann, director of Indo-Pacific programs at Greenmantle, argues, “The notion that Guam is ‘just a military base’ makes it a more attractive target for U.S. adversaries that would not dare target an American state like Hawaii.”

About 100 miles north of Guam sit the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI), a collection of 22 islands populated by just 54,000 people. Like Guam, NMI has a delegate in Congress. Freymann notes that Mariana Islanders “have



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repeatedly voted to merge with Guam as a step toward statehood.” Although those votes have yet to generate much forward momentum, Freymann contends that statehood for Guam and the Northern Marianas “would send a powerful message to Beijing,” namely that the United States is not only committed to defending the Indo-Pacific, but that the United States is part of the Indo-Pacific and will not be driven out.

## CANADIAN PROVINCES



When it appeared that Quebec might declare independence in the 1990s and thus disconnect the eastern provinces from the rest of Canada, some provincial premiers in the east discussed U.S. statehood. More recently, Canadians in the western part of the country have grown disenchanted with the government in Ottawa. Many in these western provinces have an individualist, independent ethos similar to that of the American Southwest, and they’ve launched the “Wexit” movement – mirroring Britain’s effort to withdraw from the European Union, dubbed “Brexit.” There’s even a political movement pushing for secession known as Wexit Canada, with a core of support in Alberta. If Alberta were to cut itself away from Canada, U.S. statehood would be a more likely – and more viable – option than independent nationhood.

## AMERICAN SAMOA



American Samoa, a cluster of seven islands and atolls in the South Pacific with a population of 55,000, is 2,500 miles southwest of Hawaii. It’s the only U.S. territory whose residents are not considered U.S. citizens. Samoan officials have mulled independence, statehood and continued territorial status, though there seems to be little current momentum for statehood. Howard Hills, a former State Department official who handled issues related to Pacific territories, notes that patriotic Samoan nationals committed to “preservation of local culture and customary communal land-ownership traditions” comprise a substantial segment of the territory. “Unlike the other four territories,” he concludes, “American Samoa retains strong social cohesion and political as well as economic self-determination.”



## THE CALIFORNIAS

We tend to think of the boundary lines and names of existing states as settled. But that may not be true. In 2014, there was a statewide initiative to split California into six states. A similar effort dubbed the “New California” movement proposes dividing California into a coastal-urban

state stretching from Los Angeles to San Francisco (which would retain the name California) and a rural-suburban-agricultural state (which would be known as “New California”).

Dating to the Gold Rush days of the 1840s, California residents and even some members of Congress advocated forming the State of Jefferson in northern California. Not unlike Albertans disgruntled with and disconnected from Ottawa, Californians agitating for Jefferson today view the government in Sacramento as out of touch with their interests and values.

Jefferson’s prospects for statehood may be slim, but the *Los Angeles Times* reports that some counties have entertained proposals from Jefferson supporters. *The Sacramento Bee* notes that “sweeping pandemic edicts out of Sacramento” have added new fuel to the Jefferson statehood movement. And this has happened before, when a large swath of northwestern Virginia broke away to form West Virginia in 1863.

If it happened in the past, it can happen in the future. 🌿

*Alan Dowd is a senior fellow with the Sagamore Institute.*

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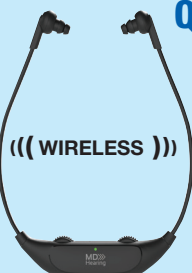
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## Hill of Angels



Marines of the  
2nd Battalion,  
9th Regiment take  
cover at Con Thien.  
U.S. Marine Corps photo

*Like all firebases, Con Thien was a model of battlefield simplicity.*

BY KEITH NIGHTINGALE

**T**he Vietnam War had thousands of firebases, occupied by many units and many troops. A firebase in Vietnam – wherever it might be – would be well known to whomever frequented one. The locations may have been different, but the experience was quite the same.

Con Thien was one of these, displaying the simplicity of the battlefield, its complications, casualties and, above all, brotherhood. Con Thien was special to those who were there, perhaps a decent model of all where, when under siege, the conundrums of combat created angels.

The military identified the point on a map as YD113703. Loosely translated, Con Thien means “the Hill of Angels,” and so it was, but of a different form than originally envisioned. Before

the Marines’ arrival in February 1967, it was just one among a meandering string of hills that separated North Vietnam from South Vietnam along the artificially imposed demilitarized zone. North of the dividing Ben Hai River, the North Vietnamese had dug a series of deeply caved artillery positions pointing south. The occupying angels at Con Thien would quickly learn that the devil lurked within them, and visited often.

U.S. military planners saw Con Thien as a significant piece of bare earth for establishment of the McNamara Line. This would stretch from the mouth of the Cua Viet River on the coast due west to where Laos met the two Vietnams. Con Thien could see far to the north and east alike, giving it great tactical value. The most available



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force to hold this land would be the U.S. Marines, having learned through history to suffer willingly – from Chateau-Thierry to Tarawa, the Chosin Reservoir and now Con Thien.

Marines occupied the mass and with an assist from the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) transformed it into a modern

Verdun. Bunkers and trenches wound around the perimeter, and all the modern material and support converged to make Con Thien a self-contained fortress – one that was an easy aiming point for the many artillery pieces less than five miles to the north.

NVA artillery quickly began to roll across the terrain. It ranged from 152 mm to 120 mm artillery to 4.2 and 82 mm mortars. They rained constantly on the position. Even so, their effect was less significant than the constant monsoon rains.

Con Thien is largely clay laterite. It holds water, prevents percolation and creates a seemingly endless series of red-rimmed pools. Its mud is like glue and sticks to boots, skin and clothing. Marine faces would glisten with fresh water from the sky, but their bodies would be coated in muddy glue.

Sanitation was impossible. First-echelon medics learned to wipe an arm and their hand simultaneously before inserting IVs. Doctors working in a leaking bunker probed and cut with flashlights and lanterns. It was not a pleasant place, but it was a hill of angels.

Photographer David Douglas Duncan, himself a Marine in World War II, stayed in the trenches there for a week and was struck by the sense of duty and camaraderie. Rank was understood, but it wasn't a forced issue. Commands can be casual and obeyed as well. The blood of brotherhood was constantly refreshed.

The North pounded it mercilessly and attacked often. Patrols and night OPs were always engaged. The rain increased in intensity, as did casualties.



Helicopters constantly resupplied rations, water and ammunition, and back-hauled the casualties, the living on litters and the dead in plastic mummy wraps stacked in whatever space was available.

Men slept and worked in soaked, muddy clothes. Skin became waterlogged and rolled off in small, visible streaks. Rations were dispensed

individually with white, grease-covered spoons coveted for everything from eating to toileting, the paper ration roll usually dissolving quickly after exposure. Flak jackets provided some warmth. Cigarettes were treasured and traded as if they were gold. A pack could get you off a night's OP. Five Lucky Strikes for the can of beans and balls. I got ham and limas.

Cigarettes glowed constantly and were carefully covered in order to light the next or your buddy's. Matches were rendered inoperable almost upon opening the sundry pack. A box of wooden matches, sent from home illegally, were a treasure to be protected in plastic and kept in the bunker.

The position became a deeply cratered junk yard. Things one might treasure at home – weapons, ammo, personal effects, clothing – were just battlefield junk. Occupants lived like prairie dogs, looking out from protective positions toward daylight and the evil lurking beyond the barbed wire. Nearly constant engagements were conducted through sandbag and dirt-filled ammo box slits. The rain of fire was momentarily forgotten in the heat of changing magazines, feeding the pig or treating a buddy's wound.

Con Thien, like all firebases, was a model of battlefield simplicity and complexity. Cigarettes, dirt, casualties, family. Everyone who lived to come off that hill was, in fact, an angel in every sense of the word. 🌿

*Keith Nightingale is a retired Army colonel and two-tour Vietnam War combat veteran.*

# ★★ Exclusive Commemorative 24K Gold-Plated Proof ★★

OFFICIALLY LICENSED BY THE U.S. MARINE CORPS



Image of the flag-raising on Iwo Jima and the USMC Eagle, Globe, and Anchor emblem



Excerpt from the *Marines' Hymn*

Historic imagery of USMC at Chapultepec



Design subject to change. This fine collectible is not legal tender and bears no monetary face value. Shown larger than actual size of 38.6mm.

## KEY DETAILS

### EXCLUSIVE RELEASE:

New Proof salutes the courage and commitment of the USMC from the Revolutionary War to today inspired by the powerful words and ideals of the famous *Marines' Hymn*.

### OFFICIALLY LICENSED:

Officially licensed by the USMC, this exclusive commemorative is offered in coveted Proof condition. Richly plated in 24K gold, it depicts Marines in action at "the Halls of Montezuma" as well as the Iwo Jima flag-raising.

### LIMITED AVAILABILITY:

Issued to honor the "Few" and the "Proud," editions are strictly limited. Due to the extremely low quantity available, only the earliest applicants will be able to successfully secure this superb Proof tribute.

### SECURED AND PROTECTED:

Your superb Proof commemorative arrives sealed in for heirloom protection in a crystal-clear capsule.

## The Marines' Hymn: The Sound of Courage

Many of us know at least some of the words to the toe-tapping tune: *From the Halls of Montezuma to the Shores of Tripoli* ... yet what do they mean? To members of the USMC, the *Marines' Hymn*, officially adopted nearly a century ago in 1929, means *everything*. Its powerful words and ideals recall the history, pride, and commitment of the USMC as they boldly faced menace and mayhem around the globe. Now The Bradford Exchange Mint honors the enduring *Semper Fi* spirit of the USMC and the song that inspires us all, with the exclusive *Halls of Montezuma USMC Proof*.

Officially licensed by the USMC, this all-new Proof is richly plated in 24K gold for enduring value. On the reverse, full-color printing recaptures the 1847 battle of Chapultepec referred to in the song as "the Halls of Montezuma." This Mexican War fight was so fierce Marine officers and noncommissioned officers still wear scarlet "blood stripes" on their blue dress trousers in remembrance. The obverse portrays Marines at the famed Iwo Jima flag raising during World War II, plus the Marine emblem and the motto *Semper Fidelis*. Created with Proof-quality coining dies, it arrives preserved in a crystal-clear capsule. Don't miss this chance to acquire this striking tribute as well as future issues in *The Marines' Hymn USMC Proof Collection*.

### Availability is very limited. Satisfaction Guaranteed

Order now and *The Halls of Montezuma USMC Proof* can be yours at the \$49.99\*, issue price, payable in two installments of \$24.99 each, plus a total of \$6.99 shipping and service. You need send no money now, and you will be billed with shipment. Your purchase is backed by our unconditional, 365-day guarantee and you may cancel at any time simply by notifying us. Supplies are very limited, so don't risk missing out. Just return the coupon today.



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**YES.** Please accept my order for *The Halls of Montezuma USMC Proof* for me as described in this announcement. *Limit: one per order.*

\*Plus a total of \$6.99 shipping and service per item. Please allow 4-8 weeks for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance. By accepting this reservation you will be enrolled in *The Marines' Hymn USMC Proof Collection* with the opportunity to collect additional issues. You'll also receive a deluxe wooden display — FREE! You may cancel at any time.

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address

City

State

Zip

17-02561-001-E94901

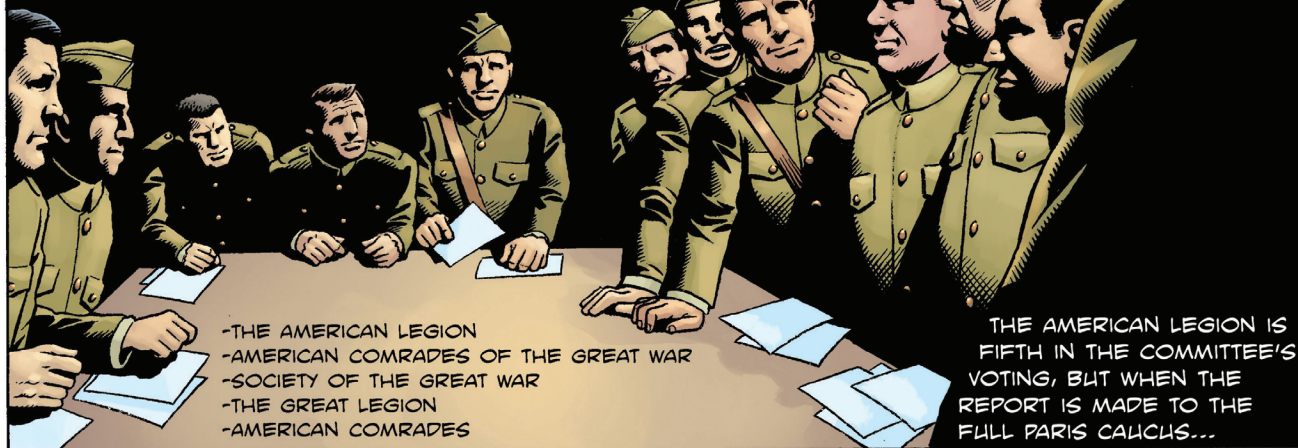
# LORE OF THE LEGION

STORY: JEFF STOFFER  
ART: GARY MARTIN  
COLOR: MARCUS ESKOW  
EDITOR: AUGUST UHL

THE NEW ORGANIZATION'S NAME REMAINS UNDECIDED WHEN DELEGATES ARRIVE FOR THE MARCH 1919 PARIS CAUCHS.

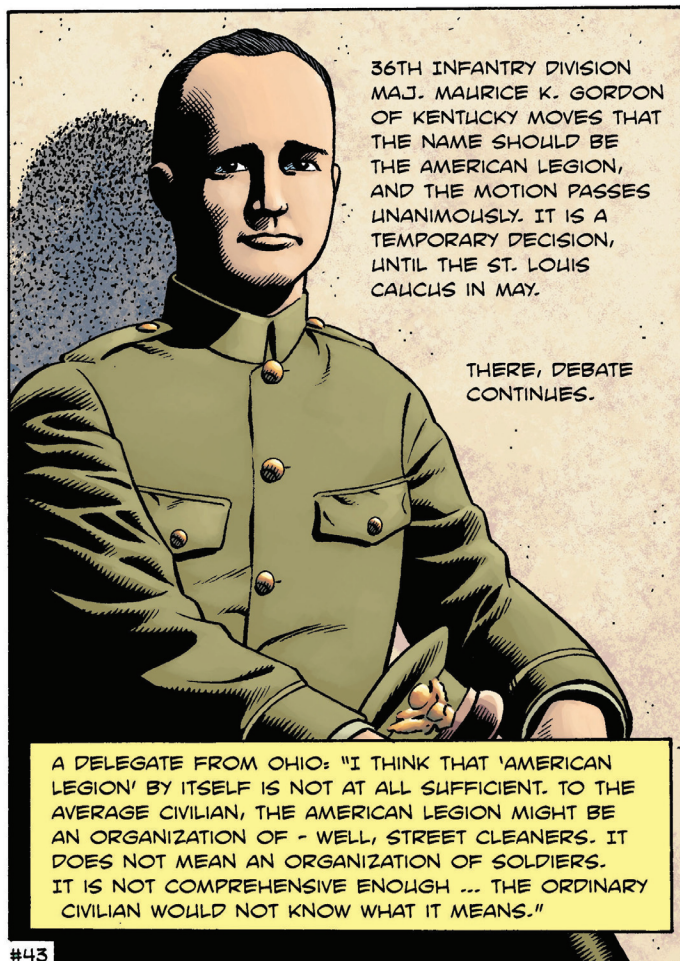
A COMMITTEE ON NAMES IS FORMED AND OFFERS SOME POSSIBILITIES:

- COMRADES OF THE GREAT WAR
- VETERANS OF THE GREAT WAR
- LIBERTY LEAGUE
- ARMY OF THE GREAT WAR
- LEGION OF THE GREAT WAR
- GREAT WAR LEGION
- THE LEGION...



- THE AMERICAN LEGION
- AMERICAN COMRADES OF THE GREAT WAR
- SOCIETY OF THE GREAT WAR
- THE GREAT LEGION
- AMERICAN COMRADES

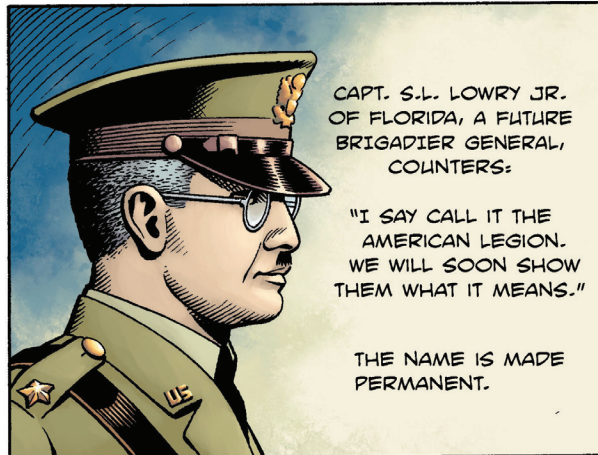
THE AMERICAN LEGION IS FIFTH IN THE COMMITTEE'S VOTING, BUT WHEN THE REPORT IS MADE TO THE FULL PARIS CAUCHS...



36TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
MAJ. MAURICE K. GORDON  
OF KENTUCKY MOVES THAT  
THE NAME SHOULD BE  
THE AMERICAN LEGION,  
AND THE MOTION PASSES  
UNANIMOUSLY. IT IS A  
TEMPORARY DECISION,  
UNTIL THE ST. LOUIS  
CAUCHS IN MAY.

THERE, DEBATE  
CONTINUES.

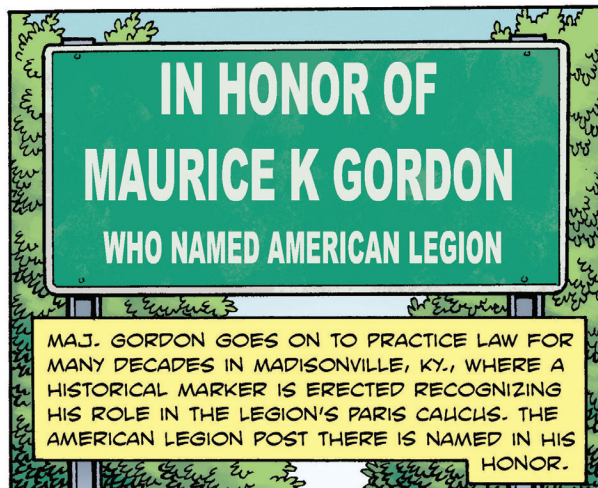
A DELEGATE FROM OHIO: "I THINK THAT 'AMERICAN LEGION' BY ITSELF IS NOT AT ALL SUFFICIENT. TO THE AVERAGE CIVILIAN, THE AMERICAN LEGION MIGHT BE AN ORGANIZATION OF - WELL, STREET CLEANERS. IT DOES NOT MEAN AN ORGANIZATION OF SOLDIERS. IT IS NOT COMPREHENSIVE ENOUGH ... THE ORDINARY CIVILIAN WOULD NOT KNOW WHAT IT MEANS."



CAPT. S.L. LOWRY JR.  
OF FLORIDA, A FUTURE  
BRIGADIER GENERAL,  
COUNTERS:

"I SAY CALL IT THE  
AMERICAN LEGION.  
WE WILL SOON SHOW  
THEM WHAT IT MEANS."

THE NAME IS MADE  
PERMANENT.



IN HONOR OF  
MAURICE K GORDON  
WHO NAMED AMERICAN LEGION

MAJ. GORDON GOES ON TO PRACTICE LAW FOR MANY DECADES IN MADISONVILLE, KY., WHERE A HISTORICAL MARKER IS ERECTED RECOGNIZING HIS ROLE IN THE LEGION'S PARIS CAUCHS. THE AMERICAN LEGION POST THERE IS NAMED IN HIS HONOR.

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# FAMOUS



On Jan. 3, USS *Abraham Lincoln* made Navy history, deploying to the western Pacific with a female captain at the helm.

**Capt. Amy Bauernschmidt** is the first woman to skipper a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, with thousands serving under her command.

"This is an amazing day," said Bauernschmidt, a "Wolfpack" Navy helicopter pilot, of her crew. "They're going to do exceptional work out there, and I just can't wait to watch them succeed."

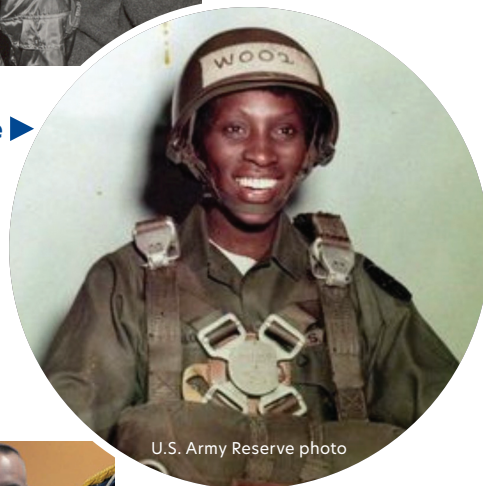
The announcement came two months after an unnamed Montana National Guard soldier became the first woman to complete the Army Sniper Course at Fort Benning, Ga.

During Women's History Month, *The American Legion Magazine* recognizes these and other milestone moments in women's military service to our country.



◀ **Ens. Jane Kendeigh** was the first Navy flight nurse to fly to an active combat zone, landing at Iwo Jima on March 6, 1945. A press release described her as "108 pounds of green-eyed charm and efficiency."

In 1974, **Staff Sgt. Joyce Malone** ▶ became the first Black woman and the oldest to earn Airborne wings while in the Army Reserve. By 38, she completed 15 parachute jumps.



U.S. Army Reserve photo



◀ **Maj. Sarah Schechter** is the Air Force's first female rabbi. A native New Yorker, she called a military recruiter the day after 9/11, eager to support U.S. servicemembers.

## 1917-1918

More than 3,000 Army nurses deploy to serve at hospitals near the front in France. Stateside, women step up to fill vacant roles. More than 11,000 serve as Navy "yeomanettes," and the Army Signal Corps enlists women to serve as telephone and switchboard operators.

## 1942

With thousands of non-combat roles to fill, all military branches enlist women. Nearly 350,000 women go on to serve in uniform during World War II, in the Women's Army Corps (WAC), the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES), the Marine Corps Women's Reserve and the Coast Guard Women's Reserve (SPAR).

## 1948

President Harry Truman signs the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, allowing women to serve as permanent, regular members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

# FIRSTS

A SALUTE  
TO WOMEN  
IN THE U.S.  
MILITARY



Wikimedia Commons

◀ **Cmdr. Jeanine McIntosh Menze** is the Coast Guard's first Black female aviator. She earned her wings in 2005 and flew rescue missions in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.



U.S. Navy photo

◀ In 2016, **Navy Chief Culinary Specialist Dominique Saavedra** became the first female enlisted sailor to earn her submarine qualification, or "dolphins."



Wikimedia Commons

▶ **Coast Guard Lt. (j.g.) Beverly Kelley** was the first woman to command a U.S. military vessel - specifically, the 95-foot patrol boat USCGC Cape Newagen, on April 15, 1979.

▶ In 1967, **Master Sgt. Barbara Dulinsky** became the first female Marine sent to a combat zone, after volunteering for duty in Vietnam. She served as administrative chief at Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) in Saigon.



Wikimedia Commons

◀ In 2011, **Gen. Loretta Reynolds** was the first woman to command the Marine Corps' historic training ground at Parris Island, S.C. She is also the first female Marine to command units in a battle zone.



Wikimedia Commons



Wikimedia Commons

◀ **Staff Sgt. Esther Blake**, 51, was the first woman to join the Air Force, enlisting the first minute of the first hour of the first day women were authorized for Air Force duty on July 8, 1948.

## 1967

President Lyndon Johnson signs Public Law 90-130, opening promotions for women to general and flag ranks. The law also removes the 2% restriction on the number of women serving on active duty.

## 1976

The first women are admitted to the U.S. service academies.

## 1993

DoD opens combat aviation jobs to women.

## 1994

Defense Secretary Les Aspin officially rescinds the "risk rule," which excluded women from combat units or missions that risk exposure to direct combat, hostile fire or capture.

## 2013

Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta announces that DoD will lift the combat exclusion policy, making women eligible to serve in frontline combat and complete combat operations.

## 'The best therapy in the world'

Army veteran Trish Carlisle-Thompson, 81, leads veterans on mule rides as a form of therapy.

"Often veterans get a lot of pressure from work ... do this, do that," she says during a ride at Bumble Bee Ranch, roughly an hour's drive from downtown Phoenix. "When they get out riding, there's no pressure. To me, that is the best therapy in the world."

Since 2006, Carlisle-Thompson has led hundreds of veterans, family members and others on treks, usually in small groups. During lunch breaks, veterans sometimes open up and share their struggles. "It helps them a lot," she says.

A member of Mary Ellen Piotrowski American Legion Post 94 in Sun City West and former department chaplain, Carlisle-Thompson wants veterans "to see some of the things I've seen, to get out and enjoy things. I want them to be able to trust people. It took me years to learn that."



*Army veteran Trish Carlisle-Thompson guides veterans on therapeutic mule rides at Arizona's Bumble Bee Ranch. Photo by Ash Ponders*

Ray Mounts worked on nuclear missiles before retiring from the Air Force. He moved to Arizona from Montana a few years ago.

"I'm used to the mountains and trees, but there is beauty in the trails here," he says after his first mule ride with Carlisle-Thompson.

With some experience training mules, Mounts believes the animals' excellent hearing, strength and footing are a great way to get veterans away

from their issues and into nature. "The outdoors helps relax people. You appreciate stuff more."

That's Carlisle-Thompson's goal: to help fellow veterans find her same joy, one mule step at a time. "Hopefully they, in turn, will help somebody else."

- Henry Howard

Watch a video about Carlisle-Thompson's mule therapy: [legion.org/magazine/videos](https://legion.org/magazine/videos)

## Drum up some noise in Milwaukee

American Legion bands and color guards can now apply to compete at the 103rd National Convention in Milwaukee.



*Photo by Ben Mikesell*

The National Color Guard Contest will open the convention at 4 p.m. Aug. 26, in the Exhibit Hall, Sections A-B, 3rd Level of the Wisconsin Center. Newport Harbor Post 291 of Newport Beach, Calif., will defend its title as champion. The four classes of competition are Advancing/Retiring Colors, Military, Military-Open and Open. To be considered for the National Commander's Color Guard, units must compete in either Military or Military-Open and Advancing/Retiring Colors. Units can represent any part of the American Legion Family, or have a combination of members. Applications are due July 22.

On Aug. 28, the American Legion National Concert Band Contest will begin at 1 p.m. at the same location in the Wisconsin Center. The event includes Concert Band and Exhibition Concert Band classes. Applications are due April 29.

For contest applications, visit [legion.org/convention/contests](https://legion.org/convention/contests).

### EXHIBIT HALL HOURS

Located in the Wisconsin Center, this year's exhibit hall will include an on-site Emblem Sales store, apparel, souvenirs, life-care items, insurance companies, promotional products, informational/educational vendors and more.

- Friday, Aug. 26: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Aug. 27: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Aug. 28: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 29: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 30: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information on the exhibit hall or booth space, email [convention@legion.org](mailto:convention@legion.org).



## Major U.S. firms with happiest employees

1. **Adobe**, San Jose, Calif.
2. **RingCentral**, Belmont, Calif.
3. **HubSpot**, Cambridge, Mass.
4. **Peloton**, New York
5. **Microsoft**, Redmond, Wash.
6. **Farmers Insurance**, Woodland Hills, Calif.
7. **IBM**, Armonk, N.Y.
8. **Medallia**, San Francisco
9. **Zoom Video Communications**, San Jose, Calif.
10. **Experian North America**, Costa Mesa, Calif.

Sources: Comparably, CNBC

## Cold War II frontlines

Lawmakers from both parties are urging the Biden administration to renew a partnership agreement with the strategically located Marshall Islands. But as The Associated Press reports, Washington refuses to engage the islands' government on claims related to "environmental and health damage caused by dozens of nuclear tests ... carried out in the 1940s and '50s, including a huge thermonuclear blast on Bikini Atoll."

The bipartisan group of 10 members of Congress has expressed concerns that the longtime ally - where the United States bases a number of military, intel and power-projection assets - could drift into China's orbit if a new "Compact of Free Association" agreement is not forged.

"It is distressing that these negotiations do not appear to be a priority - there have been no formal meetings since this administration began - even as our international focus continues shifting to the Indo-Pacific," the lawmakers wrote to President Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan. "China is all too ready to step in and provide the desperately needed infrastructure and climate resiliency investment sought by these long-time partners."



## Bond ... Commander Bond

Britain's Royal Navy has bestowed upon James Bond actor Daniel Craig the rank of honorary commander, *Military Times* reports. The fictional secret agent depicted in the Bond franchise was a Royal Navy commander. Craig has played the role since 2006.

First Sea Lord Adm. Tony Radakin, the top uniformed leader of the Royal Navy, describes "Commander Bond" as a naval officer "who keeps Britain safe through missions across the globe. That's what the real Royal Navy does every day, using technology and skill the same way as Bond himself."



*"The threats are really growing and expanding every single day."*

**Gen. David Thompson**, Space Force second in command, revealing that U.S. space assets are coming under constant attack. The main culprits - Russia and China - are launching what Thompson calls "reversible attacks," such as electronic-warfare jamming, laser flashes that blind the optic systems on satellites, and computer-based cyberattacks. He confirms that Russian space-based anti-satellite systems (ASATs) have maneuvered close enough to U.S. satellites to raise concerns that the Russian weapons were prepping for kinetic strikes. Source: The Drive



Photo courtesy Cliff Lipson/CBS ©2021  
CBS Broadcasting, Inc.

## Pennsylvania Legionnaire wins 'Tough as Nails'

As one of 12 contestants on the CBS reality show "Tough as Nails," Lia Mort wanted to just have fun.

"I was like, 'Let's hold on to this for as long as we can and do the best we can, and see what happens,'" says Mort, a Legion Rider and member of American Legion Post 25 in Selinsgrove, Pa. "I already made it on the show, so anything else was just icing on the cake."

On Dec. 8, the Marine Corps veteran was crowned this season's champion, winning \$200,000 and a Ford truck.

"Tough as Nails" tests competitors' physical strength, endurance, life skills and mental toughness in a series of team, individual and elimination challenges at real-world job sites. Mort applied to be on the show after watching the first season, which premiered in 2020.

Her military background, time as a professional firefighter, and experience in construction and farming all played a role in her win. "I don't have anything in my head that says, 'I can't do it,'" says Mort, who currently serves as a chief warrant officer in the Army Reserve. "I just love life. I get excited to try new things, challenges."

She asked her fellow 11 competitors to select charities meaningful to them, and is donating \$5,000 to each one. She's also launching a podcast with fellow competitor Kalimba Edwards called "More Than Tough," in which they'll interview past contestants and production crew.

Mort served in the Marine Corps from 1986 to 1990. She joined the Army Reserve after 9/11, deploying twice to Iraq (2003, 2009) and to Afghanistan (2011) as an Army civilian.

Busy as she is, Mort continues to volunteer as a member of Post 25's honor guard. "It's a privilege to be able to honor those who served at their final goodbye," she says. "I'm just trying to get involved (at Post 25) and be supportive of veterans, help out where I can."

– Cameran Richardson

## Playing by their own (slide) rules

To send a message to its adversaries and to stoke nationalist pride back home, the Russian military released video of pilots and crewmembers aboard a T-160 bomber testing NATO defenses in Central and Eastern Europe. But the video may have sent the wrong message.

As the Zenger news service reports, the images Russia shared with the world show pilots using slide rules to make complicated navigation calculations. U.S., NATO and other Western-aligned air crews use onboard computers to make such calculations. The concern is that the Russian air force's reliance on such methods – at speeds in the hundreds of miles per hour – could cause an accidental collision or allow warplanes to drift dangerously, even if accidentally and temporarily, off-course. Either outcome could trigger an international incident.

Slide rules "largely disappeared from U.S. military bases and college classrooms in the early 1970s," according to the report. An Air Force Academy spokesman notes, however, that cadets are required to take an airmanship course as part of their experience. One of those courses leads to the possibility of joining the Academy's Cessna Aircraft Flying Team, which trains for an annual competition where flight planning must be completed using a slide rule.

The report adds, ominously, that slide rules could be an important redundancy in the event of a nuclear blast, which would trigger EMP effects that can destroy computer systems.

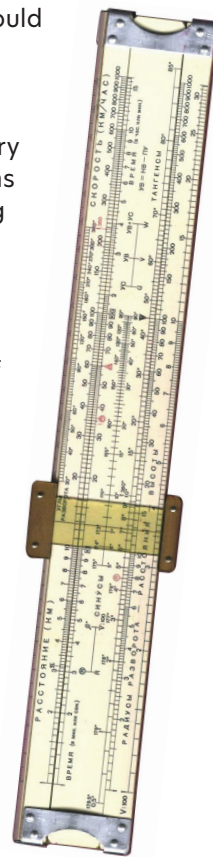


Photo courtesy  
International Slide  
Rule Museum

# The Invention of the Year

## The world's lightest and most portable mobility device

*Once in a lifetime, a product comes along that truly moves people. Introducing the future of battery-powered personal transportation . . . The Zinger.*

Throughout the ages, there have been many important advances in mobility. Canes, walkers, rollators, and scooters were created to help people with mobility issues get around and retain their independence. Lately, however, there haven't been any new improvements to these existing products or developments in this field. Until now. Recently, an innovative design engineer who's developed one of the world's most popular products created a completely new breakthrough . . . a personal electric vehicle. It's called the **Zinger**, and there is nothing out there quite like it.



Available in Green,  
Black (shown) and Blue



it can be wheeled around like a suitcase and fits easily into a backseat or trunk. Then, there are the steering levers. They enable the **Zinger** to move forward, backward, turn on a dime and even pull right up to a table or desk. With its compact yet powerful motor it can go up to 6 miles an hour and its rechargeable battery can go up to 8 miles on a single charge. With its low center of gravity and inflatable tires it can handle rugged terrain and is virtually tip-proof. Think about it, you can take your **Zinger** almost anywhere, so you don't have to let mobility issues rule your life.

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The Zinger and Zoomer Chairs are personal electric vehicles and are not medical devices nor wheelchairs. They are not intended for medical purposes to provide mobility to persons restricted to a sitting position. They are not covered by Medicare nor Medicaid. © 2022 Journey Health and Lifestyle



## The ever-changing tax landscape

This time last year, I was anticipating a lot more changes in the rules, regulations and rates than we're actually facing as we near another tax-filing deadline. Never put your tax planning on autopilot; there are always new twists and turns.

Here are a few opportunities that stand out:

**Monitor the child tax credit.** The American Rescue Plan bumped the credit to \$3,000 per child and \$3,600 for those 5 and younger. Half of that, unless the taxpayer opted out, came in six monthly advance child-tax-credit payments from July through December of last year. You can claim the other half when you file your 2021 tax return. There's no definitive answer yet as to whether this credit will extend beyond 2021, and that is both the potential pitfall and planning opportunity. Use this or other similar windfalls to pay down debt, build savings or invest for other goals. Avoid incorporating this type of income into your regular spending; doing so could leave you short if the rules change.

**Leverage the 12% tax bracket.** Your tax bracket is the percentage of tax you pay on your last dollar of taxable income – your income after allowable deductions and exemptions. For 2022, the 12% tax bracket applies to taxable income from \$20,550 to \$83,550. Established with changes during 2018, the 12% bracket is worth discussing with your tax adviser. It could provide an opportunity to make voluntary distributions from your retirement savings to take advantage of what is, from a historical perspective, a relatively low tax hit. Also,

don't forget about mandatory minimum distributions. They are once again required, and if you miss them, you could face stiff penalties.

### Explore IRS breaks in the form of tax credits.

Typically, this is a topic more suited to a younger audience. However, for 2021 returns the Earned Income Tax Credit is available to many more people. A new law makes the refundable tax credit available to those over 65 without dependents. The Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled is another credit for which seniors may qualify. In either case, there is a new dimension to planning withdrawals and managing taxable income. Discuss your eligibility for these and other credits with your adviser.

**Review last year's charitable contributions.** In 2018, the standard deduction nearly doubled. According to IRS statistics from that tax year, this change resulted in nearly 90% of taxpayers using the standard deduction instead of itemizing. Simpler, yes, but not necessarily a windfall for charities or charitable deductions. For 2021 returns, taxpayers who don't itemize will be able to take a limited deduction for charitable cash contributions. While it's limited to \$600 for joint filers (\$300 for single), every dollar helps.

While taxes will always be with us, they are constantly changing. Ensure your plan keeps pace with all that change.

*J.J. Montanaro is a certified financial planner with USAA, The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services. [legion.org/usaa](https://legion.org/usaa)*

## Canada's strategic maple syrup reserve

As high gasoline prices have prompted the Biden administration to tap into America's Strategic Petroleum Reserve, NPR reports that Canada is tapping into its own reserves of a precious commodity: maple syrup.

The Canadian group Quebec Maple Syrup Producers announced it was releasing about 50 million pounds of its strategic maple syrup reserves due to higher global demand and a lower yield caused by uncharacteristically warm temperatures in 2021.

Those 50 million pounds of syrup amount to about half of the group's total stockpile. Quebec

produces 70% of the world's maple syrup, and the United States is the biggest single consumer. Global demand jumped 21% in 2021, NPR reports.

The Quebec Maple Syrup Producers plan to tap 7 million more trees in coming years to restock and meet rising global demand.



Pixabay

**MY GI BILL** VETERANS & EDUCATION  
BY VALERIE HEFFNER

## Expected family contribution, Pell Grants

**Q:** My father was serving in the Army when he died in Iraq. I want to attend school now, and wonder if I should apply for financial aid even though I will receive Chapter 33 GI Bill education benefits. Also, since my 2020 income was above the standard threshold, would I qualify for any grants?

**A:** Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) allows students to receive any other free money that may be available. Once the application for aid is submitted, you will receive an expected family contribution (EFC). This calculation will explain if you qualify for a Federal Pell Grant. If you do not, you may be eligible to receive the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant, which is the same as the largest Pell Grant award. Your EFC will not be affected, nor will your eligibility for any need-based federal student aid.

Valerie Heffner is a Marine Corps veteran and member of American Legion Post 27 in Apache Junction, Ariz.

[askvalerie@legion.org](mailto:askvalerie@legion.org)

# 25,313

Electric-vehicle charging stations by the end of 2020, up from 7,340 in 2014

# 122,016

Electric vehicles sold in March 2021, setting sales records

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation

## IF YOU'RE A VETERAN WEARING ADULT DIAPERS TO CONTROL URINARY INCONTINENCE, YOU ARE NOT ALONE

**“I can keep doing what I want to do, without having to worry about running to the bathroom or changing my clothes. It's a Godsend.”**

— John, Men's Liberty user



### Did you know that over 18%<sup>1</sup> or almost twice as many men with military service experience urinary incontinence?

If you're a veteran looking for urinary incontinence solutions for daily leaks or as a result of an injury while serving our country, Men's Liberty™ can help you get out of absorbent products, condom catheters or pads and start living your life without letting incontinence get in your way.

	MEN'S LIBERTY	ADULT DIAPERS
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<b>Directs urine away from the skin?</b>	<b>YES</b> Completely external design collects fluid into a discreet pouch — leak-free	<b>NO</b> Traps moisture which stays in contact with skin causing discomfort or infection
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<sup>1</sup>Vaughan CP, Johnson TM 2nd, Goode PS, Redden DT, Burgio KL, Markland AD. Military exposure and urinary incontinence among American men. J Urol. 2014 Jan; 191(1):125-9. doi: 10.1016/j.juro.2013.07.016. Epub 2013 Jul 16. PMID: 23871759.

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**How to submit a reunion**

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, e-mail [reunions@legion.org](mailto:reunions@legion.org) or submit information online at [legion.org/reunions](http://legion.org/reunions).

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are free.

Notices will remain online until the final day of the reunion. Upon submission, allow three months for your reunion to be published in print. **Due to the large number of reunions, The American Legion Magazine will publish a group's listing twice a year.**

**Other notices**

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. **We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim.** Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, phone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206** or e-mail [reunions@legion.org](mailto:reunions@legion.org).

The magazine will not publish names of individuals, only the name of the unit. Listings are free.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. **This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership.**

Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your American Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**. Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

**AIR FORCE / ARMY AIR FORCES**

**8th Tact Ftr Wing (Ubon Royal Thai AFB),** Warner Robins, GA, 5/18-20, John Leichter, (216) 633-2342, [piratefan1960@gmail.com](mailto:piratefan1960@gmail.com); **Ramey AFB Historical Assn,** San Diego, 5/3-7, Joyce Lanier, (309) 251-1740, [mrzip@mtco.com](mailto:mrzip@mtco.com)

**ARMY**

**2/1 Cav Assn,** Columbus, GA, 5/12-15, Tom Fey, (303) 619-7571, [tomfey@comcast.net](mailto:tomfey@comcast.net); **2nd Chem Bn,** Elizabethtown, KY, 5/11-15, Walt Eldredge, (225) 892-3754, [bigbend1993@gmail.com](mailto:bigbend1993@gmail.com); **4th Inf (IVY) Div,** Colorado Springs, CO, 7/26-29, Glen Armstrong, (414) 630-2484, [ivyleaveseditor@gmail.com](mailto:ivyleaveseditor@gmail.com); **14th Field Arty Rgt,** Branson, MO, 4/21-24, Charles Rex Weaver, (254) 702-6860, [rexw6@earthlink.net](mailto:rexw6@earthlink.net); **335th Radio Research (Vietnam),** Foley, AL, 4/28-5/1, Terry Collings, (251) 284-6670, [terrycollings01@gmail.com](mailto:terrycollings01@gmail.com)

**COAST GUARD**

**Salt Lake CG Reserve Unit/NSFCCRU,** Salt Lake City, 8/6, Thomas Cowan, (801) 628-0687, [tjc12112@gmail.com](mailto:tjc12112@gmail.com), [saltlakecgru@gmail.com](mailto:saltlakecgru@gmail.com)

**MARINES**

**Golf Co 2/7,** San Antonio, 9/14-18, Lamont Taylor, (518) 249-7009, [cinemascreead@yahoo.com](mailto:cinemascreead@yahoo.com); **Mar Barracks Bermuda,** Dayton, OH, 10/23-27, Dennis McDonald, (763) 473-3458, [d.mcdonald82575@comcast.net](mailto:d.mcdonald82575@comcast.net); **USMC Vietnam Tankers Assn,** Dubois, WY, 9/17-20, John Wear, (719) 495-5998, [johnwear2@verizon.net](mailto:johnwear2@verizon.net); **VMFA-115,** Tucson, AZ, 3/3-6, Patti Kaas, (717) 422-6796, [kaasfamily4@gmail.com](mailto:kaasfamily4@gmail.com)

**NAVY**

**Ashtabula AO 51,** Green Bay, WI, 7/13-16, Bruce Rosenberg, (920) 425-3168, [ashtabula2020@gmail.com](mailto:ashtabula2020@gmail.com); **Decatur,** Tulsa, OK, 9/15-18, Ron Banks, (918) 812-5114, [rj41584@cox.net](mailto:rj41584@cox.net); **Diablo SS 479,** Portland, ME, 9/18-21, Dave Matthes, (540) 665-6454, [dmatthes479@gmail.com](mailto:dmatthes479@gmail.com); **Forrest B. Royal DD 872,** Savannah, GA, 6/23-26, Ron Larsen, (715) 423-8905, [mosbyusn@wctc.net](mailto:mosbyusn@wctc.net); **Hector AR 7,** Bethlehem, PA, 9/14-18, Glenn Hahn, (610) 597-8038, [gandk5124@verizon.net](mailto:gandk5124@verizon.net); **Illustrator Draftsman DM,** Melbourne, FL, 3/17-20, Allen Johnstad, (321) 505-6854, [mildlywildal@yahoo.com](mailto:mildlywildal@yahoo.com); **Rasher SS/SSR/AGSS 269,** Mobile, AL, 6/8-12, Richard Moore, (804) 815-0730, [drifterpilot2@gmail.com](mailto:drifterpilot2@gmail.com); **Spinax SS 489,** North Little Rock, AR, 5/15-20, Jack Thormahlen, (512) 913-4861, [ehl\\_jlt@yahoo.com](mailto:ehl_jlt@yahoo.com); **T-Boats (Mackerel SST 1, Marlin SST 2, Barracuda SST 3),** Little Rock, AR, 10/5-8, John Delihanty, (503) 974-9305, [jo-lodel67@comcast.net](mailto:jo-lodel67@comcast.net); **Taylor DD/DDE 468,** Norfolk, VA, 10/2-6, James O'Neill, (804) 212-8911, [oneillfalm@aol.com](mailto:oneillfalm@aol.com); **Ticonderoga CV/CVA/CVS 14,** Norfolk, VA, 5/12-16, Sean McConnell, (717) 713-3895, [sean1465@comcast.net](mailto:sean1465@comcast.net); **Tidewater AD 31,**

Branson, MO, 9/12-16, Dean Agee, (417) 689-4644, [rdmlagee@gmail.com](mailto:rdmlagee@gmail.com); **VP-45,** Jacksonville, FL, 8/17-21, Doug Mitchell, (678) 650-7500, [poohbearmit@aol.com](mailto:poohbearmit@aol.com); **Wiltzie DD 716,** Houston, 9/25-29, Ted Laurila, (360) 736-3853, [dd716ted@comcast.net](mailto:dd716ted@comcast.net)

**IN SEARCH OF**

**2nd Mar Div FMF (Camp Lejeune, NC, 1952-1954),** Al Heidler, (954) 999-9578

**4th Arm'd Div 1st Bn 22nd Arty HQ Btry (Zirndorf, Germany, 1965-1967),** John Sassmann, (843) 540-9073, [ebcm1234@hargray.com](mailto:ebcm1234@hargray.com)

**86th Eng Det (Saron, France, 1961-1962),** Art Gulliver, (978) 855-7777

**1964th Comm Grp (AFCS) (Tan Son Nhut, Vietnam, 1969-1970),** Rod Cavanaugh, (760) 578-0147, [cavanaughelectric@verizon.net](mailto:cavanaughelectric@verizon.net)

**2137th Comm Sqn (Spangdahlem AB, Germany, 1967-1970),** Larry "Mule" Mull, (419) 706-0622, [johnlmull@neo.rr.com](mailto:johnlmull@neo.rr.com)

**B & C Co 14th Trans Bn 4th Inf Div (Karlsruhe, Germany),** Bill Lasure, (812) 299-1594

**Charlie Btry 1st Bn 12th Mar Rgt 9th Mar Div (Vietnam, 1964-1967),** David "Doc" Peik, (507) 387-6475

**Leary DD/DDR 879 (1945-1974),** Al Redden, (308) 530-1284, [alshr@allophone.com](mailto:alshr@allophone.com)

**Pit 3013 (Parris Island MCRD, SC, July 1967),** Harry Hopwood, (352) 284-6386, [harryhopwood02@gmail.com](mailto:harryhopwood02@gmail.com)

**USAREUR AG Spt Ctr (Rodelheim, Germany, 1973-1976),** Harold Clark, (715) 297-1956

**TAPS**

**Deodoro M. "Joe" Aguilar, Dept. of Arizona.** Dept. Cmdr. 2002-2003, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2000-2004, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 2004-2008, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 2008-2012, Nat'l Internal Affairs Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2009-2012, Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 2011-2013, Nat'l Naval Affairs Cmte. Memb. 2012-2013, Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2008-2009, Nat'l

Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2004-2008 and Nat'l Unconventional Forces & Intelligence Cmte. Memb. 2013-2017.

**Robert C. Hannon, Dept. of Virginia.** Dept. Cmdr. 2003-2004, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Memb. 2019-2021, Nat'l Cemetery Cmte. Memb. 2010-2013, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1998-2004, Nat'l Law and Order Cmte. Memb. 2005-2006 and Nat'l VA&R Cmsn. Memb. 2007-2010.

**William D. Jackson, Dept. of Indiana.** Nat'l Exec. Director 1978-1995, Nat'l Asst. Exec. Director 1977-1978 and Nat'l Citizens Flag Alliance Advisory Cmte. Ex-Officio Memb. 1994-1995.

**Johnny B. Keel, Dept. of Louisiana.** Nat'l Historian 2005-2006 and Nat'l VE&E Cncl. Memb. 2015-2021.

**William E. Marshall, Dept. of France.** Dept. Cmdr. 1995-1998, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 2004-2010, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2012-2013, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Memb. 2013-2017 and Nat'l VE&E Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2004-2010.

**William H. McDonald, Dept. of New Hampshire.** Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2002-2007.

**Eugene J. "Skip" Pellegrin, Dept. of Louisiana.** Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Memb. 2013-2021 and Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2012-2013.

**Richard W. Perry, Dept. of Arizona.** Dept. Cmdr. 2010-2011, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 2014-2018, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Memb. 2013-2014, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2012-2013, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 2012-2014, Nat'l Internal Affairs Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2014-2018 and Nat'l Legis. Cmsn. Memb. 2018-2021.

**Ron Struble, Dept. of Iowa.** Dept. Cmdr. 2014-2015, Nat'l Sec. Cmsn. Memb. 2012-2014, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2011-2012, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2010-2011 and Nat'l Guard & Reserve Forces Cmte. Memb. 2015-2019.

**James Vialard, Dept. of New Jersey.** Dept. Cmdr. 2004-2005, Nat'l VA&R Cmsn. Memb. 2004-2010 and Nat'l VA&R Cncl. Memb. 2018-2020.

**Richard Zalinkanskas, Dept. of New Jersey.** Dept. Cmdr. 2008-2009 and Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Memb. 2007-2017.

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# **The seven ages of man: spills, drills, thrills, bills, ills, pills and wills.**

**A SERGEANT** walked into the barracks and asked his men if any of them knew shorthand. Looking for easy work, several recruits raised their hands.

"Great," the sergeant said. "They're short-handed in the mess hall."

**A CUSTOMER** at a farmers market asked a seller, "Is this tomato genetically modified?"

"Why do you want to know?" the seller asked.

"Yeah, why do you want to know?" the tomato added.

**A LOCAL DOCTOR** called a plumber in the middle of the night because one of his toilets was blocked. He insisted it was urgent and needed to be attended to immediately. Upon arrival, the plumber lifted the toilet lid, threw in two aspirin and said, "If they're still there in the morning, give us another ring."

**AN OPTOMETRIST** was describing a patient to a friend. "Every time he went to read, he would read double," he said.

"Poor fellow," the friend commented. "I bet that interfered in his holding down a job."

"Not at all. The gas company hired him to read meters."

**THE CONSENSUS** after the most recent election is that 100% of Americans think 50% of Americans have lost their minds.

**I'M NO DOCTOR**, but I know adding cheese to anything makes it an antidepressant.

**A FARMER** put up a new building. "What are you going to use it for?" a neighbor asked.

"Well," the farmer answered, "if I can rent it, it's a rustic cottage nestled beneath two tall pines. If I can't, it's a cow shed."

**"I THINK** the serving size for ice cream is when you hear the spoon hit the bottom of the container." – *Brian Regan*



"I'm just saying, with as many laws as are on the books, the chances I'd break one of them are actually pretty good."



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**EASY TO ENJOY** Wherever you go, a built-in camera makes it easy and fun for you to capture and share your favorite memories. And a built-in reading magnifier and LED flashlight help you see in dimly lit areas. With all the features you need, the Jitterbug Flip2 also comes with a long-lasting battery, so you won't have to worry about running out of power.

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